

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in this application:

Please cancel claims 11, 12, and 17 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising ~~node~~:

specifying nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node ~~which moves among the specified nodes~~;

counting the number of nodes present within each overlapping region overlaps between a communication zone of the mobile node one of the specified nodes and communication zones of each of the other specified nodes for each specified node; and

selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node next, the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have ~~been counted, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying, said counting, and said selecting, the specified nodes dispersedly arranged, wherein the method selects a node without using a received signal strength indicator.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising:

specifying neighbor nodes ~~a neighbor node~~ present within a communication zone of a mobile node;

specifying neighbor nodes for each specified neighbor node of the mobile node that are present within a communication zone for a corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node;

counting the number of specified neighbor nodes that are within the communication of the corresponding one of the specified neighbor nodes of the mobile node;

~~specifying a neighbor node present within a communication zone of the neighbor node;~~

~~counting the a number of the specifications for each neighbor node; and~~

~~selecting, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node, the specified neighbor node of the mobile node having the largest number of specified neighbor nodes that are within its communication zone the neighbor node in which the number of the specifications in a~~

~~predetermined order is large, wherein the mobile node moves among the neighbor nodes, the neighbor nodes being dispersedly arranged, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying the neighbor node with the communication zone of the mobile node, said specifying the neighbor node with the communication zone of the neighbor node, said counting, and said selecting, wherein the method selects a node without using a received signal strength indicator.~~

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the selection is not performed if the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have has been counted is the same as a node with which the mobile node is currently in communication.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 3, wherein when there are a plurality of specified nodes in the communication zone of which the largest number has been counted, an arbitrary one node is selected.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the mobile node performs said specifying the neighbor nodes present within node with the communication zone of the mobile node, said specifying the neighbor nodes present within the communication zones of the neighbor nodes node with the communication zone of the neighbor node, said counting, and said selecting at predetermined periods.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with a movement speed of the mobile node.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 5, wherein the predetermined period is changed in accordance with an arrangement density of the specified nodes.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.

11. (CANCELED).

12. (CANCELED).

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein the specified nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 2, wherein the specified nodes are uniformly dispersedly arranged.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a wireless transmitter; and

a processor operable to specify nodes present within a communication zone of a mobile node which moves among a plurality of nodes dispersedly arranged ~~the specified nodes~~; count the number of nodes present within each overlapping region ~~a number of overlaps~~ between a communication zone of one of the mobile node ~~of one of the specified nodes~~ and communication zones of other each of the ~~specified nodes for each specified node~~; and select, as a candidate node for next communication with the mobile node next, the specified node in the communication zone of which the largest number of nodes have ~~has~~ been counted, ~~wherein the mobile node performs said specifying, said counting, and said selecting, the specified nodes dispersedly arranged, wherein the processor is operable to select the candidate node for communication without using a received signal strength indicator.~~

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the apparatus is the mobile node which moves among a plurality of ~~the specified~~ nodes.

17. (CANCELED).

Serial No.: 10/500,404

Art Unit: 2617

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the specified nodes are mobile nodes.